



2026 Hurricane Season officially begins. Here are some tips to keep your family safe



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:
ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

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U.S. gamers getting older as industry reports growth

Washington, United States

Video games are having a moment in the United States -- but the players are getting older.

The average American video game player is now 37 years old -- up from 29 about two decades ago -- as the industry reports activity climbing back to their highest levels since the pandemic-era boom, a new report reveals. The findings, from the Entertainment Software Association's annual Essential Facts report, challenge enduring stereotypes about who plays games while underscoring the industry's recovery from a post-pandemic slowdown. "It mirrors in large part the demographics of the nation," ESA president and chief executive Stanley Pierre-Louis told AFP, noting that more than half of all players in the



People play Mario Kart World during a launch event ahead of the midnight release of the Nintendo Switch 2 at the Nintendo New York store on June 4, 2025.

United States are now 35 or older.

The steadily rising average player age reflects both the

aging of a generation that grew up with consoles and a wave of older adults who have since picked up the hobby.

The gender split also defies the stereotypical image of the young male gamer.

Men account for 53 percent of players and women 46 percent, with women actually outnumbering men among Baby Boomers, the ESA said.

Overall, 67 percent of Americans play video games for at least an hour a week -- a figure broad enough to encompass everything from blockbuster console titles to casual mobile games like Wordle.

Revenues -- totaling \$60.7 billion in 2025 -- have rebounded to their highest point since 2021, when pandemic lockdowns drove an outsized surge in both players and spending.

After a pullback as restrictions lifted, the industry has returned to growth, Pierre-Louis said.

- Self-regulation -

As lawmakers in the United States and Europe weigh tougher regulations on screen time, age verification and in-game spending, Pierre-Louis argued the US gaming industry's track record of voluntary self-regulation sets it apart.

That voluntary framework, he said, has given the industry credibility with US lawmakers

that social media platforms lack.

Those platforms, he noted, "traditionally didn't have the same level of parental tools that video games had" -- a gap that has fueled the regulatory backlash now engulfing companies such as Meta and TikTok.

"Safety is not a competitive issue in our industry -- it's one of collaboration," Pierre-Louis said.

"Being on the ecosystem and staying on the ecosystem means you feel like you're in a trusted environment."

- 'Satisfaction' -

The ESA was founded in 1994 partly in response to congressional concern over violent content in games, and almost immediately established the Entertainment Software Rating Board, which assigns age ratings from E for Everyone to M for Mature for titles sold in North America. The system also flags details about online interactions and in-game purchases.

Major console platforms including Xbox, PlayStation and Nintendo Switch now offer parental control tools that allow families to restrict what games children can access, cap spending and limit screen time -- capabilities Pierre-Louis said have been refined over decades in direct response to parent and policymaker feedback. The argument, however, faces increasing pushback in the United States.

The gaming industry is facing growing scrutiny as platforms expand into social media-like features, with ESA member Roblox especially under pressure over child safety issues with regulators and in courts.

Legislative proposals range from mandatory age verification for games with chat features to bills that would impose national safety standards.

For the industry, such legislation should not be necessary. "It's a matter of how do we get everyone up to speed on what the video game industry has been doing, so that there's satisfaction around the practices and trust and safety mechanisms we have in place," Pierre-Louis said. □

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WED	CULTURAL DANCE SHOW <i>By Youth in Action</i>
THU	ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
SUN	VIOLIN SHOW <i>By Angela Flores</i>

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In New York, waiting in line becomes a social scene



People wait in line outside L'industrie Pizzeria in New York City on May 15, 2026.

New York, United States

In front of L'industrie Pizzeria, as at many other New York restaurants and shops, customers line up behind barriers -- in this case, all to grab a prized pizza slice.

Not everyone in America's biggest city finds standing in line to be a chore. The power of social media trends means that for some, waiting for hours is an attraction in itself.

"It's gotten pretty crazy in the city recently," food influencer Ali Chilton, who has 168,000 followers on Instagram, told AFP.

"Some would blame me for the lines at some of those places," the 31-year-old said, citing a craze for hot chocolates at dessert shop Glace after a video she posted in 2023 racked up tens of millions of views.

People can queue overnight in New York if needed, as happened last year when punters sought to bag free tickets for a play starring Lupita Nyong'o and Peter Dinklage in Central Park.

Isabella Downes, who lately waited 40 minutes outside a Manhattan deli, said she was drawn to the idea of "participating in something trendy and fun."

She was queueing to try out Dot Cakes, small frosted cakes with multicolored sprinkles that went viral and sell for \$11 apiece.

In a "polarizing" world, she said, "being collectively together over one thing, and it's usually a pretty

happy and excited environment, that can be really nice too."

- Line sitters -

For the impatient, a new tool has recently become available: the website "Damn Lines" estimates waiting times in real time using cameras installed in nearby homes, in exchange for payment.

Or you can hire a line sitter to wait in your place.

One firm, Same Ole Line Dudes, says its workers are in at least two separate queues on any given day. They charge clients \$25 an hour for the privilege of sparing them the boredom of waiting. At courts, where media outlets often use line sitters to get a seat for high-profile cases, the rate rises to \$50 an hour.

Robert Samuel, the company's founder, said that customers include businesses who may hire sitters to create a queue -- enticing others to join it.

"I can't say the name, but we've had a few companies that have hired my line sitters as posers to wait outside their establishments," he told AFP.

- 'Social ritual' -

Roberto Casati, a French-Italian philosopher, pointed to a deeper sense of meaning for people who join long queues like those in New York.

"A social ritual is being created around the line," Casati, a research director at the French National Centre for Scientific Research, told AFP. □

Tiny homes see tiny boost for Los Angeles homeless as World Cup nears



Pallet Shelters stand inside a Tiny Home Village managed by Hope The Mission for interim homeless housing in the Eagle Rock neighborhood of Los Angeles, California on June 1, 2026.

Los Angeles, United States

For the past few months, Michael Gilpin has slept in a small, prefabricated house he moved into when he got off the streets of Los Angeles as part of a major drive to reduce homelessness.

The single-room unit is a long way from perfect -- he says it has the air of a "jail cell" -- but it's a huge improvement on sleeping in his car.

"It's better than the streets, hands down," the 44-year-old told AFP of his 65-square-foot home (six-square-meter), which he shares with another man. "I don't have to deal with cockroaches." Gilpin is one of a few thousand people who have benefited from hundreds of millions of dollars spent to find people a place to live in Los Angeles.

America's second biggest city will host eight games in the World Cup this summer, but faces even bigger global scrutiny in 2028 when the Olympics come to town, bringing athletes and fans from all over the world.

Visitors to Los Angeles are frequently struck by the staggering levels of homelessness in a city that also has pockets of astonishing wealth.

Squalid tent encampments pack sidewalks all over the city, where the newly homeless and the down-on-their-luck live cheek-by-jowl with drug addicts and people

suffering from chronic -- and untreated -- mental health problems.

For the three years of her term, Democratic Mayor Karen Bass has made tackling this blight a priority, ramping up initiatives to fund thousands of beds, whether in hotels or in so-called "tiny homes" like the one Gilpin occupies.

The effort is beginning to bear fruit: the clusters of tents and shopping carts that once clogged the boulevards of Hollywood and Venice Beach are less numerous.

The latest census, released last year, showed a 17.5 percent drop in the number of people living on the streets over a two-year period -- the most sustained fall since the city began counting its homeless just 20 years ago.

- 'Not enough' -

Yet, the scale of the problem remains immense. Los Angeles County, which includes the metropolis's suburbs, has an official tally of 72,000 unhoused people, 47,000 of whom sleep on the street. In the San Fernando Valley, north of the city, activist Armando Covarrubias manages the crisis as best he can during his daily rounds, distributing bottles of water, snacks, and instant soup.

"Unfortunately, there's not enough beds, not enough shelters," says Covarrubias, who works for an organiza-

tion called Hope The Mission. In his area, the number of homeless people is "four or five times bigger than the beds."

When city authorities dismantled an encampment along the side of a railway line last month, he couldn't find housing for everyone. As a result, about a dozen tents have already sprung up again.

Amidst the tarps and makeshift barbecue, a lady named Maggie said she is hoping to find somewhere permanent after 10 years on the street.

Maggie, who is in her 40s and did not want to give her full name, said she is on a waiting list.

"I've been waiting three months for them to help me," she said.

Even for those who secure a spot in a shelter, success is far from guaranteed.

The facilities impose rules that are sometimes hard to accept, such as a ban on visitors.

The mayor's flagship program -- a short-term shelter system using tiny homes and a network of hotels -- has drawn criticism.

Despite the \$300 million outlay, it has not been a total success: figures show that by the end of 2025, it had got 5,800 people into some kind of accommodation, but 40 percent of them eventually returned to the streets. □

AI fever spreads, but are markets masking economic cracks?



Paris, France

SpaceX's record-smashing IPO plan shows investors are eager to keep pouring money into all things AI, even as alarm bells ring for the wider economy. And that has analysts wondering: Where will the cash come from if soaring inflation dents growth? Or if the artificial intelligence rollout proves less profitable than hoped?

- Historic influx -

Investment by AI labs is at historically "unprecedented" levels, with expected outlays by the 11 top American players over the next 12 months representing nearly three percent of US GDP, said Raphael Gallardo, chief economist at asset management group Carmignac in Paris. At the beginning of this year confidence in that spending surge wobbled, with chipmakers and other tech hardware firms taking a hit on stock markets worldwide. But despite the outbreak of an ongoing war in the Middle East, "for now, those concerns largely have been dismissed by the markets" after reassuring profit reports, said Adam Sarhan of 50 Park Investments in New York. "If you look at the actual earnings, those fears did not come to pass and in fact a lot of companies" committed to spend more on AI, Sarhan told AFP.

Google for example announced this week that it would raise up to \$80 billion

for a major expansion of its AI infrastructure.

It said it was "compute constrained in the near term" -- jargon meaning it cannot build necessary infrastructure fast enough to meet demand.

SpaceX meanwhile aims to raise \$75 billion in an initial public offering expected next week, by far the largest IPO ever.

Its rivals OpenAI and Anthropic, behind ChatGPT and Claude respectively, are set to follow suit in the coming months, valuing the companies around a whopping \$1 trillion.

- Gobbling up chips -

Beyond U.S.-based chatbot makers, companies worldwide have profited from the AI rush, especially chipmakers providing their computing power.

South Korea's benchmark Kospi stock index for example has nearly doubled its value since January this year, propelled by chipmakers Samsung Electronics and SK hynix -- both also now trillion-dollar companies.

Those two companies alone account for half the Kospi's market capitalisation.

"The fact that two companies make up such a large portion of the market highlights just how concentrated that dependence is, and that is the biggest risk factor," said Kim Dae-jong, a professor at Sejong University.

In Taiwan, TSMC, a supplier to AI chip specialist Nvidia,

represents on its own 40 percent of the Taipei stock market, while technology investor SoftBank in Japan this week surpassed Toyota as the country's most valuable company.

In the United States, red-hot demand for Micron and Intel chips have seen their share prices more than double so far this year, while European equity benchmarks have soared thanks in large part to Infineon and STMicroelectronics.

- Too hot for comfort? -

There are signs however that market expectations have outstripped the ability of companies to meet them. This week the U.S. chip specialist Broadcom saw its shares plunge despite its second-quarter profit having nearly doubled to \$9.3 billion as its forecast for third-quarter chip revenue growth of over 200 percent failed to meet expectations.

"The support provided by huge capital inflows to AI and chip stocks is fading, exposing the often extreme overpricing in these sectors," said Andreas Lipkow, analyst at CMC Markets.

"In a best case, investors will take profits ahead of the summer pause, and markets would have time to consolidate," he said, especially if they sell tech holdings to buy the new SpaceX shares.

"If not, the likelihood of a major short-term correction on international equity markets remains high," he said. □

Video game makers shift releases to avoid 'GTA VI' juggernaut



This illustration photo created in Los Angeles, California, on December 5, 2023, shows Rockstar Games' Grand Theft Auto 6 trailer played on computer screens.

Paris, France

Video game publishers are reshuffling release schedules to avoid getting run over by feverishly anticipated "Grand Theft Auto VI", as a crowded autumn line-up takes shape, industry players said at an annual gaming event Friday.

The Summer Games Fest in Los Angeles highlighted dozens of upcoming titles while underscoring the market impact of Rockstar Games' next instalment, due on November 19 after two delays.

GTA VI is the eighth main entry in the blockbuster franchise, and set to arrive more than 13 years after GTA V, the second best-selling video game in history.

Publishers are steering clear of the final months of 2026, traditionally a peak sales period, to avoid competing with what is expected to be the year's dominant product -- and potentially the biggest entertainment launch of all time.

Titles including "Wolverine", "Silent Hill: Townfall" and "Ace Combat 8: Wings of Theve" are among more than a dozen major games expected in September, while "Star Wars Zero Company" is set for August 27.

"Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4" will launch on October 23, just weeks before GTA VI -- a slot widely seen as the outer limit for avoiding direct competition.

That window is "frequently cited as the latest you can release a game and not get sucked into that Rockstar black hole", said Christopher Dring, founder of specialist outlet The Game Business.

GTA VI will be the "biggest premium release which will gather huge amount of attention and engagement that will likely last until at least the new year", consultancy firm Ampere Analysis said in a report.

The Summer Games Fest, hosted by Geoff Keighley after conferences led by Sony and ahead of Microsoft's showcase, unveiled several major titles on Friday, including "Final Fantasy VII Revelation", due in spring 2027.

A remake of "Resident Evil: Code Veronica", first released in 2000, is also slated for 2027, titled "Resident Evil Veronica", reflecting the industry's continued reliance on established franchises.

Beyond release schedules, the event showcased new projects, including "1666 Amsterdam" by Assassin's Creed creator Patrice Desilets and "Gen Atlas" from Japanese designer Fumito Ueda. □

Legendary 130-year-old French wine restored after decades under Czech castle floor

Becov nad Teplou, Czech Republic

Eight bottles of a legendary French wine that survived World War II and decades of communist rule hidden under a Czech castle floor have been lovingly restored by the chateau that produced them some 130 years ago. The bottles of Chateau d'Yquem -- one of the world's most expensive, highly-prized sweet white wines -- are a part of a collection of 136 bottles discovered at the western Czech castle of Becov nad Teplou in the 1980s, slated to go on display in the future.

The collection once belonged to the noble Beaufort-Spontin family, who left the old Czechoslovakia

hastily at the end of the war when they were suspected of having collaborated with the Nazis.

The wine spent decades hidden under the floorboards of the castle chapel alongside the shrine of St Maurus before communist secret police found them in 1985.

But while the shrine was taken to Prague at once to undergo extensive reconstruction before returning to Becov to be displayed in 2002, the wine was left where it was.

Chateau d'Yquem, from the Sauternes area of Bordeaux, led the way, taking care of their eight wines, made in 1892 and 1896.

"We tasted a very small

quantity to be sure that, aromatically and in terms of balance on the palate and overall perception, the wine corresponded to a Chateau d'Yquem of that age," said the winery's cellar master Toni El Khawand.

Laboratory tests proved the wine was a real Chateau d'Yquem, and the winery could then replace the corks and fit the original bottles with capsules to protect them. As the wine gradually gave way to oxygen, the winery had to re-bottle it, returning only five full original bottles to Becov as a result. Speaking at a presentation of the reconditioned bottles, El Khawand said tasting the wine, which has survived owing to its high sugar content,



Toni El Khawand (R), cellar master at iconic French wine house Chateau d'Yquem, presents one of five restored bottles from the 19th-century at the Becov castle, on June 1, 2026 in the village of Becov nad Teplou, Czech Republic.

was "a magical experience". "What we're really doing when we open it is unveiling a time capsule. We pull out

this cork that has sealed the liquid off from its surroundings and, in a way, from the passage of time," he told AFP. □

Mid-year Party marks Playa Linda accomplishments

PALM BEACH – Playa Linda's employees, Senior Management and Board of Directors convened to commemorate the midyear, upholding an annual tradition that honors shared accomplishments and recognizes the achievements made possible through exceptional teamwork. Employees received well-deserved acknowledgment for their daily contributions and, in turn, expressed their sincere appreciation for a supportive Senior Management and Board. It is this partnership that continues to make the Playa Linda Beach Resort experience truly exceptional for employees and guests alike.

The sense of close community that is present every day at the popular Palm Beach timeshare was once again on full display during an animated evening of dinner, dancing and joviality. That shared spirit of accomplishment ex-

tended to outgoing Board President Angela Guarino, whose 17 years of dedicated service have helped ensure the continuous improvement and innovation of the Playa Linda brand.

The affection held for her was on full display through a series of heartfelt gestures. The Board presented her with a hand-painted portrait by local artist Hendrik Schouten, while Playa Linda's employees and management honored her with a canvas image of the resort signed by all employees, along with a formal retiree plaque. The Board took the further step of announcing that a planned new Playa Linda gym and spa building will be named in her honor as the Angela M. Guarino Health & Fitness Center. Under her guardianship, Playa Linda has expanded both its suite categories and its facilities, including plans for the greatly enhanced fitness center.

Overall, the Mid-year Party proved a successful event, with its sense of celebration heightened by the popular tunes of the Tsunami band,



Pictured in the group photo: Angela Guarino, center, is surrounded by the Playa Linda Executive Management Team, GM Peter van Grinsven, Operations Director Sulaika Kelly, Financial Director Ann Brinkman and Executive Housekeeper Ingrid Todd, and fellow board members Michael Nowicki, Michael Storch and Gary Hofstetter.

and with increasingly strong ties reinforced among a talented Playa Linda team. □



Europe opening up to self-driving taxis

Paris, France

Self-driving taxis, already booming in the United States and China, are emerging in Europe, with major companies launching trials this year in several capitals and the European Union set to step on the accelerator Monday. In China and the United States, private fleets of "robotaxis" -- driverless cars loaded with sensors -- more than doubled in 2025 to reach 8,000 vehicles across more than two dozen major cities, according to a May report by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Seven years behind schedule, trials will finally start across Europe over the coming months.

In France -- where no trials are scheduled for the moment -- planning high commissioner Clement Beaune recently criticised the EU for in his words "lagging behind".

European regulations say a "safety driver" must be on board the vehicle, their hands on their lap -- as was the case in the early days of testing in China and the United States.

The EU will now accelerate the process by adopting a "testbed", a simplified testing approach that will let companies avoid having to obtain approval on a country-by-country basis.

European transport ministers are set to make the decision official on Monday, Anne-



A Verne RoboTaxi vehicle drives on the streets of Zagreb on May 4, 2026.

Marie Idrac, the bloc's senior official for autonomous vehicle development, told AFP.

- London, Munich, Madrid, Zagreb... -

The first trial in Europe started on April 8 in Croatia, where Chinese company Pony.ai -- in partnership with US group Uber and Croatian startup Verne, backed by the automaker Rimac -- has been operating about 10 robotaxis in Zagreb.

In London, three groups will launch trials this year: robotaxi world leader Waymo, a subsidiary of Google parent Alphabet; its competitor Wayve, in partnership with Uber; and the Chinese company Apollo Go, a subsidiary of the tech giant Baidu.

In Madrid, the Chinese group WeRide has just announced a test with Uber. Uber will also deploy robotaxis in Munich, using technology from the Chinese company Momenta. In Switzerland, Apollo has partnered with Swiss Post for a pilot programme in the country's east.

Italian-French-U.S. automaker Stellantis and Pony.ai are to conduct a test in Luxembourg. Ride-hailing platforms Uber, Lyft and Bolt often partner in such projects.

Waymo claims it has around 3,000 driverless taxis spread across a dozen US cities, a similar number to Apollo, whose taxis are deployed in 27 Chinese cities and in Dubai.

Pony.ai has 1,700 vehicles and is targeting 3,500 by the end of 2026, compared to 1,000 for WeRide.

In China, ride-hailing platform Didi and carmaker SAIC operate robotaxis in several major cities.

In the United States, Tesla and Amazon-owned Zoox have established themselves in several cities.

By 2035, the IEA forecasts there will be between 700,000 and three million robotaxis in 40 to 80 major cities.

Consulting firm BCG expects three million, including 850,000 in China and 350,000 in the United States, but only 120,000 in Europe. Goldman Sachs is betting on around six million vehicles for a \$415-billion market.

- Crossroads -

In Europe, strict safety regulations and strong public-transport culture have put the brakes on robotaxi development, according to specialist Herve de Treglode.

But "London is ready, Madrid too. We may see commercial service by 2027," he said.

"In the U.S. and China, they don't do six months of testing and then stop. They roll out in a neighbourhood, remove the safety driver, then launch commercial service with massive investments."

One potential snag: companies want to put driverless taxis in highly profitable, densely populated urban areas; many politicians want them in suburban and rural areas, to compensate for public-transport gaps.

"It's high time we came up with a strategy," Laurence Debrincat of the Paris regional transport authority said last month, pushing for the suburban-and-rural approach.

The founder of French ride-sharing firm Ecov, Thomas Matagne, summed up the crossroads decision-makers are facing.

"Should we leave the sector to the market, at the risk of concentrating it in densely populated areas? Or should the government invest to roll out (robotaxis) in the general interest?" □

Hundreds of Charlie Chaplin lookalikes gather in Switzerland



People dressed as "The Tramp" pose for a photograph next to The Manoir de Ban, the final residence of English film director and actor Charlie Chaplin, during an event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Chaplin's World museum in Corsier-sur-Vevey, western Switzerland, on June 7, 2026.

Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland

More than 400 people don-

ning black bowler hats, toothbrush moustaches and canes gathered in

Switzerland Sunday seeking to break the record for the biggest ever assembly of Charlie Chaplin lookalikes. The unusual rally, drawing Chaplin fans of all ages, took place at a museum dedicated to the legendary filmmaker at his former home in Corsier-sur-Vevey in western Switzerland.

Timed to mark the 10th anniversary of the museum's opening, the gathering in the end drew 429 Chaplin lookalikes, falling short of the world record set there in 2017, when 662 people took part. But that did not dampen the mood.

Under a blazing sun, the Chaplins crowded together

to form a giant number 10 on the lawn stretching before the large manor where the English movie icon spent the last 25 years of his life.

"I am sincerely the happiest man alive," said Anthony Champeil, a dapper 36-year-old Frenchman who looked the spitting image of Chaplin, explaining that he was an actor who often played the film legend on stage. "We are at Chaplin's place with people who are passionate about Chaplin," he told AFP.

Suggesting that Chaplin had wanted to encourage people to maintain a child-like capacity for wonder and

play for as long as possible, he mused that the actor would have enjoyed having hundreds "of big kids gathered here today".

"I find it marvellous."

The museum is set on the vast estate of Manoir de Ban, about 26 kilometres (16 miles) from Lausanne, where Chaplin lived with his wife Oona and their eight children until his death in 1977, at age 88.

He had moved to Switzerland after being barred from the United States in the 1950s over suspicions that he had communist sympathies, at the height of Cold War paranoia about Soviet infiltration. □

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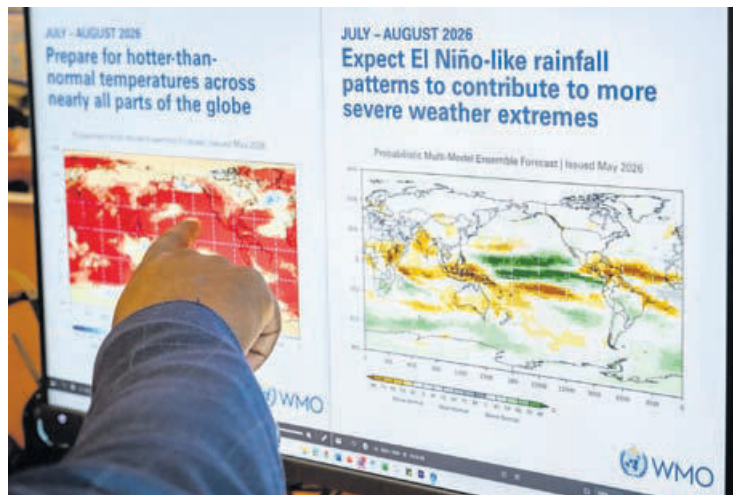
2026 Hurricane Season officially begins. Here are some tips to keep your family safe

(Oranjestad)—The 2026 Atlantic hurricane season officially began on June 1, marking the start of a six-month period during which islands throughout the Caribbean remain on alert for tropical storms and hurricanes.

The season runs through November 30 and affects the entire Caribbean region, including the ABC islands as well as the BES islands and Sint Maarten.

While the official season lasts for these six months, meteorology experts emphasize that the most active period typically occurs between August and October, when sea temperatures are at their warmest and conditions are more favorable for storm development.

Although islands in the southern Caribbean generally face a lower risk of direct hurricane impacts, this does not mean that we should not pay attention to the situation.



Even though the chances of a hurricane or tropical storm making landfall in Aruba are relatively low, the island can still experience indirect effects. Authorities consistently stress that preparedness remains one of the most effective ways to reduce the impact of severe weather events.

In addition, experts are already warning that a potentially powerful El Niño weather phenomenon could develop later this year and even continue into 2027, bringing significant impacts to the Caribbean region as well.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and regional climate institutes, the probability of El Niño developing is approximately 90%. Current climate models suggest that temperatures in parts of the Pacific Ocean could rise by as much as 3 degrees Celsius above normal, indicating that the event could become particularly strong.

El Niño occurs when waters in the central Pacific Ocean become unusually warm. The phenomenon affects global weather patterns and is often associated with extreme weather events in

different parts of the world.

For Caribbean islands, the greatest concern is the prospect of higher temperatures, prolonged dry conditions, and increased pressure on water resources.

High temperatures can be especially dangerous for older adults and those suffering from underlying conditions. It is for that reason that it's highly advised to avoid going in the sun for prolonged periods of time, wear sunscreen throughout the day and be sure to keep yourself hydrated.

Emergency situations are very rare on Aruba, but it's always smart to be prepared for anything. As part of that preparation, if you ever find yourself in a situation where evacuation becomes necessary, it is helpful to have an evacuation route planned in advance, as this could be crucial to reaching safety. This planning should also include pets as part of the household emergency plan.



Experts advise to maintain an emergency supply kit, review all family emergency plans, secure important documents, and stay informed through government communications and official weather forecasts.

Emergency preparedness measures can be especially important when tropical systems develop rapidly or change course unexpectedly, something that is always possible when dealing with nature.

Part of the responsibility for preparedness lies with authorities, who must take the necessary measures at the national level. At the same time, preparedness is also in our hands, along with the safety of both our loved ones and ourselves. □

What Aruba means to Micah & Sherrill!

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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For today we received a lovely message from Micah & Sherrill Senter from Argyle, Texas.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to us is family and friends. We have been coming to Aruba now for over twenty years. Over the past few years our friends have been



joining us. We were introduced to Aruba by family and hope to continue this tradition by passing it on to our family and friends."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



A day in Aruba Today we are visiting Museums!



1. National Archaeological Museum Aruba Schelpstraat 42, Oranjestad +297 582 8979

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

The permanent exhibit showcases archaeological objects and conveys modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum regularly hosts public seminars, special exhibitions and workshop for visitors to enjoy.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9 am till 5 pm.

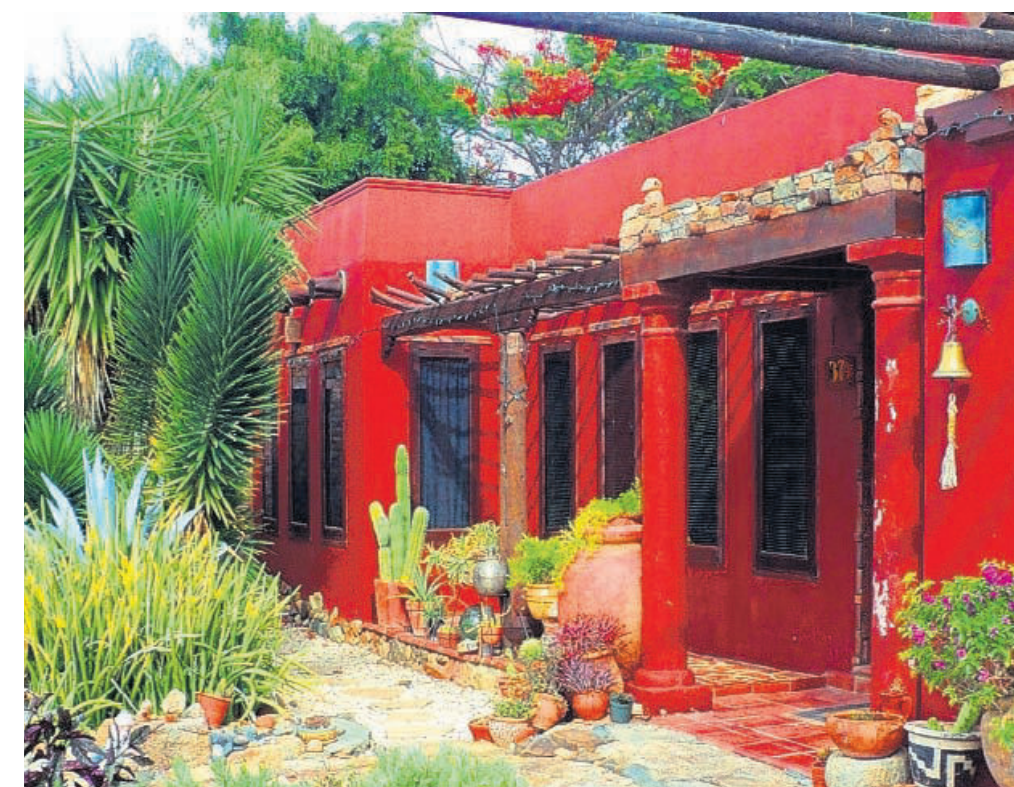
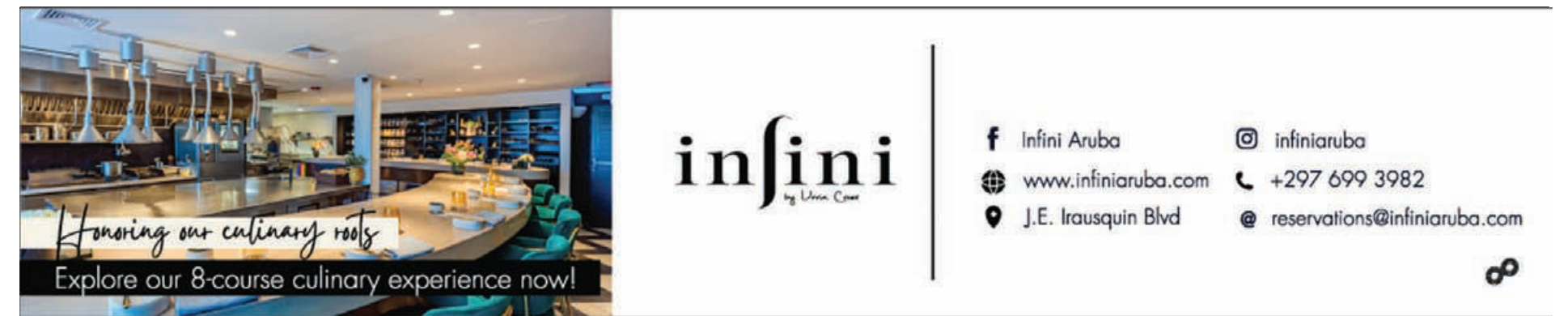


3. Museum of Industry Watertoren, Torenstraat, San Nicolas +297 584 7090

This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruban Museum Foundation (FMA), which is a foundation that maintains, preserves, and protects the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature.

The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.



2. Etnia Nativa Art Gallery & Museum Westpunt 37-A, Noord +297 592 2702

Etnia Nativa plays a role in preserving and sharing the island's true history, shedding light on indigenous knowledge that may often be overlooked. The stories told are rooted in the island's spirit and connect visitors to Aruba in a profound way.

As a co-founder of significant local projects like Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, Etnia Nativa contributes to the preservation and promotion of Aruba's cultural and environmental heritage.

By visiting Etnia Nativa, you not only gain valuable knowledge but also engage with the community that works to keep these stories alive and accessible to the public.

For more information or to arrange a visit, you can reach out to Etnia Nativa via:
WhatsApp: +297 592 2702
Email: etnianativa03@gmail.com

4. Community Museum Bernard van de Veen Zeppenfeldstraat 27, San Nicolas +297 280 0018

The Community Museum shares the stories of the community as we know it. It is the "real" contact that the Community Museum in San Nicolas will foster.

It will serve as a gathering place for the community, a space of stimulation for shared values.

The museum is open Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 4pm.



5. Historical Museum of Aruba Zoutmanstraat, Oranjestad +297 588 5199

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be.

If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

PSA from the Aruba Conservation Foundation: How to behave when you see a “lora”

(Oranjestad)— The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the ‘Lora,’ relies on how we act as humans. We’ve seen many hikers who’ve encountered the ‘Lora’ in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban. However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here to explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the ‘Lora.’ Please, don’t just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival of these birds for future generations.

No interfering, please

Please refrain from interfering with

the “Lora”. The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps slightly too friendly because they have gotten used to the rangers as they prepared for their reintroduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not interfering (calling, provoking etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their beauty from a safe distance.

Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away

Pets and strays such as cats and dogs are prone to attacking other animals, especially birds, as

part of their natural instincts. Please make sure your pets are kept inside of your yard or are kept on a leash when going out for a walk.

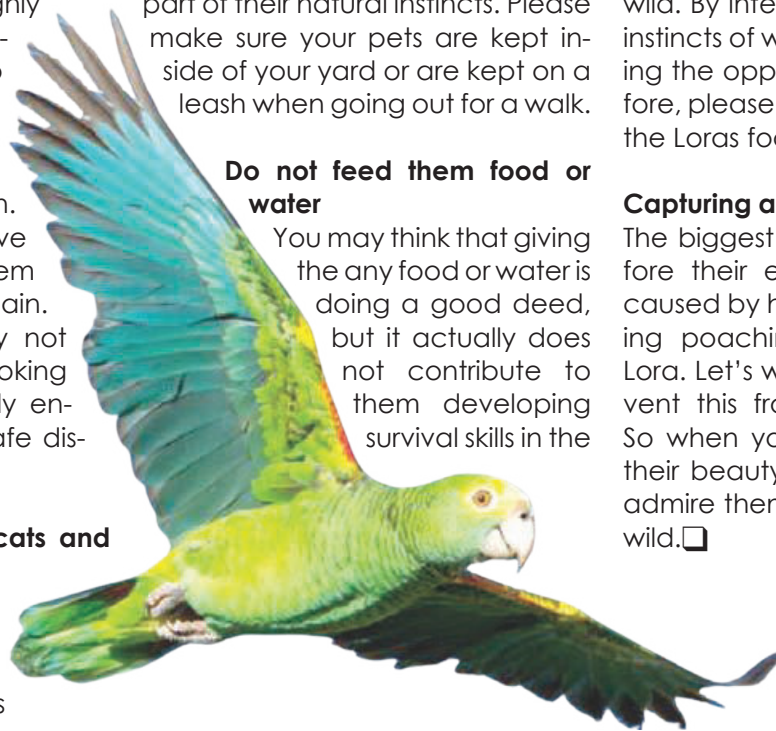
Do not feed them food or water

You may think that giving the any food or water is doing a good deed, but it actually does not contribute to them developing survival skills in the

wild. By interfering with the survival instincts of wild animals, we are doing the opposite of helping. Therefore, please do not attempt to give the Loras food or water.

Capturing a Lora is against the law!

The biggest threat to the Lora before their extinction in 1947 was caused by human activities including poaching and killing of the Lora. Let’s work collectively to prevent this from happening again. So when you see the Lora, enjoy their beauty from a distance and admire them as they flourish in the wild. □



Today is going to be a good day



(Oranjestad)—Here’s why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of

the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the

warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let’s mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park’s rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island’s indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park’s Visitors’ Center.

For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already.



But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name ‘California’ came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called ‘California’ that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island’s eastern tip to ships with its light.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout—as it might get a little windy and rough—you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It’s fun, it’s healthy and for sure something else. □



Meet Aruba's biggest hero, Boy Ecury



(Oranjestad)—As part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and due to its strategic geolocation, Aruba was unexpectedly involved in the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the front line during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out.

During the war, he actively

participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion group that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.

Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabotaging operations against the German military oc-

cupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless.

In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lannoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities.

Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjarahotel" prison in Scheveningen, The



Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being sold out by an acquaintance, he himself never gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face."

On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old.

Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aru-

ban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor." □

Source: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!

ORANJESTAD—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrates some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, *Holocentrus adscensionis*: Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean



several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as *Holocentrus adscensionis*.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following

characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curacao, they are called "bari

di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Phone button
7 Track event
11 Meeting slate
12 Mideast sultanate
13 Flying copycat
15 Foster of film
16 Conks out
18 St. Louis sight
21 Small change
22 Patriotic song
24 Switch setting
25 Drill part
26 Mine yield
27 Beyond what's acceptable
29 Expand
30 Screws up
31 Mires
32 Region of northern India
34 Wee hoverer
40 "Got it"
41 Aviator Earhart
42 Household critters
43 Milk buy

DOWN

- 1 Flock father
2 Sense of self
3 Winter mo.
4 Printer type
5 "Bye!" in Baja
6 Touch down
7 Poet Frost
8 French friend
9 Sedan or SUV
10 Purpose
14 Ferber novel
16 "Robinson Crusoe" writer
17 Due to get
19 Guitarist's concern
20 Long sand-wiches
21 Barracks bed
22 Melody
23 Kitten cry
25 Deep singers
28 Picture holders
29 TV's Bryant
31 Molten rock
33 Un-expected problem
34 Stylish
35 Try out
36 Got together
37 Unwell
38 Carnival city
39 Dapper fellow

T	A	B	L	E	F	O	C	A	L
S	T	O	O	D	O	N	I	C	E
A	M	O	N	G	R	E	T	R	O
		E	A	S	E	Y	E	N	
I	M	P	E	R	I	A	L		
N	O	R	A		C	R	O	O	K
C	L	O	G	S		M	A	M	I
A	T	P	L	A		N	I	L	E
		E	V	A	N	S	T	O	N
B	A	T		O	O	H			
A	B	H	O	R		S	A	B	L
G	L	A	R	E		E	R	R	O
S	E	W	E	D		S	K	A	T

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15							
	16	17				18		19	20	
21						22				23
24				25				26		
27			28					29		
	30						31			
			32		33					
34	35	36						37	38	39
40							41			
42							43			

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

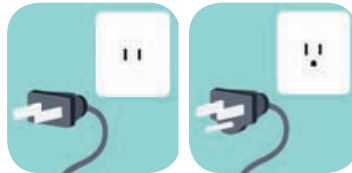
WY ZXJ SWGD RX PD K AJMBVDB,
W EKMR RX SWGD RX PD K
AJMBVDB FWMJH XMD BKZ
HX W MDGDV AKGD RX
SWGD EWRAXJR ZXJ. — K.K.
FWSMD

Cryptoquote: IT IS LOVE ... THAT
IS THE TRUE EXPLANATION OF THIS WORLD,
WHATEVER MAY BE THE EXPLANATION OF THE
NEXT. — OSCAR WILDE

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the



Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

JUNE		CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
02	TUE	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C	
09	TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS Arrival: 13:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I	
16	TUE	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C SEVEN SEAS MARINER Arrival: 10:00 Departure: 21:00 Berth: I	
17	WED	CARNIVAL VISTA Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: C ALLURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I	
23	THU	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C	
30	TUE	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C	

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	9			2	8	5	3	6
8	5	6					7	
7						9	4	
	6	7	9		4	2		
		9		7	5		6	4
3			6		2			
	4	3	2	8		6		5
		5	4		1		2	
	1							7

Difficulty: ★

6/8

Answer to previous puzzle

2	3	8	4	5	6	7	9	1
5	9	7	1	8	2	3	6	4
4	6	1	7	9	3	8	5	2
9	8	3	5	2	7	1	4	6
6	2	5	8	4	1	9	7	3
7	1	4	6	3	9	2	8	5
8	7	6	2	1	4	5	3	9
1	5	9	3	6	8	4	2	7
3	4	2	9	7	5	6	1	8

Difficulty: ★★★★★

6/7

Marschall hands 'lucky' Duplantis first pole vault loss since 2023

Stockholm, Sweden

Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis suffered a first pole vault defeat in almost three years when he failed to clear six metres at the Diamond League meeting in Stockholm on Sunday before taking a break to get married. In other events, Audrey Werro set the fastest time in the women's 800m in 43 years, US teenager Cooper Lutkenhaus sparked on his Diamond League debut in the men's 800m and Melissa Jefferson-Wooden won in her first 100m of the season. Duplantis said he hoped the defeat would prove a good romantic omen.

"I'm getting married in about a week's time... there's a lot around that but I don't want to make that the excuse," he said.

"We have a saying in Swedish... that you're either lucky in games or you're lucky in love.

"In some really strange way I think there some funny message and silver lining to this whole thing that maybe it's saying something about my commitment that I'm about to make in my marriage, maybe.

"There's something that really makes me believe in that right now."

But he added he hoped he only needed to suffer one defeat.

"I lost at my home city, I'm here in Stockholm, and I had so much family here, it's actually the worst thing that could ever happen to me," he said as he wrestled with the logical implications of his statement.

"I think that this loss will keep the love lucky for quite a while, I would hope, probably for ever."

The last time Duplantis failed to win was in the Monaco Diamond League meeting in 2023, when he finished tied for fourth and Australian Kurtis Marschall was third.

Since then, Duplantis has raised the world record nine more times to 6.31, set in Uppsala, Sweden, in March.

The stage was set for the American-born Swedish star to again hit new heights before his fans, and family, but he struggled with the conditions.

Marschall outjumped and out-bluffed Duplantis.

They were the only two competitors left after Duplantis cleared 5.80m.

Marschall then went over at 5.90m.

After Duplantis failed at 6.0m, Marschall passed, forcing Duplantis to lift the bar to 6.05m where he failed again.

"Big hats off to Kurtis because he was the better man and beat me fair and square," said Duplantis.

"We had a little bit of some tough winds today, for sure, but I didn't jump that well." Duplantis added: "I felt I was pretty unfocussed."

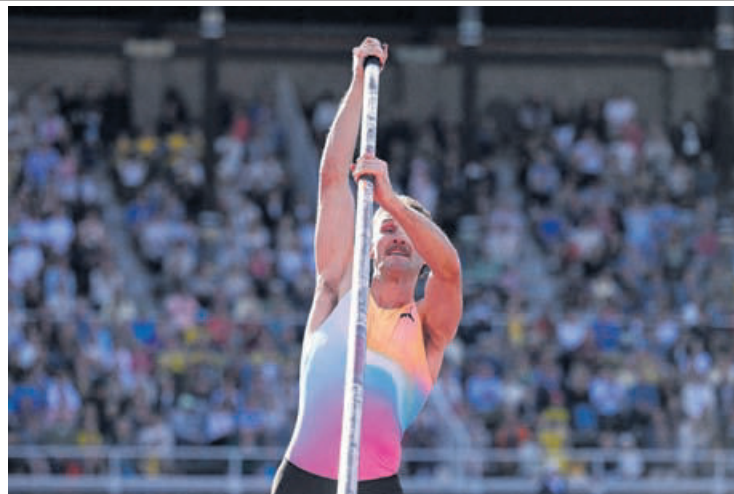
- 'I feel pretty old' -

In the women's 800m, Werro became only the third woman ever to run the event in under 1 min 54sec, with her time of 1:53.98 the third fastest in history.

In doing so she beat Olympic champion Keely Hodgkinson into second place, despite the Briton beating her British record with a time of 1:54.33.

Switzerland's Werro, 22, smashed her personal best by more than two seconds.

"I have no words, it's really a



Australia's Kurtis Marschall competes in the Men's Pole Vault event of the IAAF Stockholm Diamond League athletics meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, on June 7, 2026.

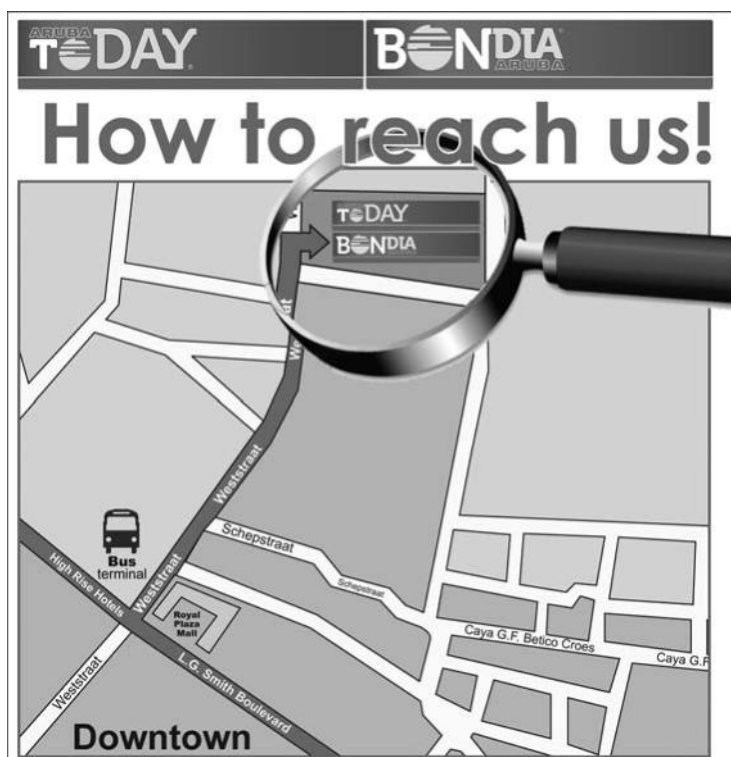
crazy performance and I will need one week to process what just happened today," Werro said.

The only two women to have run faster were Czech Jarmila Kratochvilova, when she set the current world mark of 1:53.28 in 1983, and Soviet runner Nadezhda Olizarenko, who had set the previous record in 1980.

Many world records set in the 1980s, when doping was rife, have long been viewed with suspicion, even those that set them never failed a doping test.

"Every day for two years I repeat to myself 'I am the best', sometimes it's really hard to believe but if you repeat this every day you can do great things, like today," Werro added.

Jefferson-Wooden, running her first 100m since taking the world title last September in Tokyo, bounced back from her 200m defeat in the Rome Diamond League meet a few days earlier as she cruised to victory.



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HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital
7:00 pm/10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Oduber
Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas: Seroe Preto
Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police 100
Police Oranjestad 527 3140
Police Noord 527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz 527 2900
Police San Nicolas 584 5000
Police Tipline 11141
Ambulance 911
Fire Dept. 115
Red Cross 582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas 587 5900
Prof. Taxi 588 0035
Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Zverev ends wait for Grand Slam title with French Open triumph

Paris, France

Alexander Zverev finally secured his maiden Grand Slam title with a dramatic five-set victory over Italy's Flavio Cobolli in the French Open final on Sunday.

The second seed became the first German man to win a major tournament since Boris Becker at the 1996 Australian Open with a 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1 victory after four hours and 16 minutes.

"This court is so special to me in so many ways... but now finally, it's a happy end," said Zverev, who suffered a season-ending ankle injury in the 2022 semi-final against Rafael Nadal on Court Philippe Chatrier, where he was also edged out in five sets by Carlos Alcaraz in the 2024 final.

It was Zverev's fourth Grand Slam final and second at Roland Garros after some heartbreaking near misses in his career.

"We've been through losses, we've been losers at times as well in the most important moments," he said during the trophy presentation, turning to his team.

"But at the end of the day, we're Grand Slam champions now, and that's what counts."

Cobolli, the 10th seed, was bidding to become the first Italian man since Adriano Panatta to win the French Open in 50 years.

The 24-year-old had never even played a Slam semi-final before, let alone a final, after his last-four opponent Matteo Arnaldi with-



Germany's Alexander Zverev holds "La Coupe des Mousquetaires" trophy after winning the French Open tennis tournament men's singles final match against Italy's Flavio Cobolli on day 15 of the French Open tennis tournament on Court Philippe-Chatrier at the Roland-Garros Complex in Paris on June 7, 2026.

drew from the tournament through illness.

"It's not easy for me to talk right now," said Cobolli after receiving his runner-up trophy from Panatta, before addressing Zverev.

"I'm happy for you, but I'm also sad because I was close and I feel it. So now you've achieved your dream, let me win the next time."

Both players appeared to struggle with nerves at various points in the match, especially Cobolli during an error-strewn first set.

But Zverev's greater experience showed in a deciding set that was far tenser than the scoreline suggested, as he managed to get over the line.

The 29-year-old was hand-

ed a golden opportunity to break his Grand Slam duck by the injury-enforced absence of reigning champion Alcaraz and surprise early exits for Jannik Sinner and Novak Djokovic.

The world number three was not always in control, making 54 unforced errors, but did enough to finally shed the tag of being one of the best players to have never won a major.

Zverev had previously also lost in six Slam quarter-finals and seven semi-finals, alongside his three final defeats.

The most agonising miss of all was his first major final when he blew a two-set lead and failed to serve for the championship against Dominic Thiem at the 2020 US Open.

The now-retired Thiem was

watching on from the stands at Roland Garros as Zverev belatedly put the memories of that match to bed six years later.

- Cobolli's nervy start -

Cobolli made a nervy start and appeared to be struggling to deal with the occasion as the first set quickly got away from him in 39 minutes, making 16 unforced errors. He managed to settle into the match with three successive holds of serve in the second set and then made his move out of nowhere to break in the seventh game. Zverev had been completely untroubled on serve previously, but produced a scrappy game featuring two double-faults and a wild forehand on break point be-

fore turning to gesticulate angrily towards his coaching staff.

Cobolli started to grow in confidence and served out the set to breathe life into the final.

A higher-quality third set disappeared from Cobolli's grasp in the 10th game, though, as from 30-0 up, he lost four points in a row, including a poor forehand that flew well wide on set point.

The world number 14, who will climb into the top 10 for the first time next week, hit straight back with a break in the opening game of the fourth set.

He could not pull away in the set, though, as both players ended up being broken twice, including Cobolli when he served for it at 5-4. But the Italian rallied himself to push it into a tie-break, which he took to force a decider with a blistering forehand winner on his second set point.

Following a delay before the start of the final act after Cobolli left the court, Zverev struck first blood with a break in the first game.

Cobolli's hopes were finally all but extinguished when he missed a break-back point and then dropped serve again to slip 3-0 down.

Zverev staved off three more break points in the fourth game and eased to victory from there, falling to the clay in celebration after Cobolli shanked an overhead on his second championship point. □

'Almost dying' - Simone Biles shares health scare on social media



American gymnast Simone Biles looks on before the game between the Chicago Bears and the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC Divisional Playoffs at Soldier Field on January 18, 2026 in Chicago, Illinois.

Los Angeles, United States

Gymnastics superstar Simone Biles revealed a

recent health scare via an Instagram post on Saturday, revealing no details about the medical emergency she called one of the scariest experiences of her life.

"I'm not one to normally share things like this because I value privacy in today's age, but almost dying wasn't on my bingo card earlier this week," Biles wrote in an Instagram story that showed a photo of her wrist encircled by several hospital bracelets.

"This was one of, if not the scariest experience of my life," she wrote, noting that it was made all the more frightening with husband Jonathan Owens away for off-season training with his Indianapolis Colts NFL team.

"I've been in bed resting this week," Biles wrote.

"I'll explain sooner or later but (shout-out) to my close circle who reached out, checked in, visited & or sent flowers."

Biles, 29, is a seven-time Olympic champion. Three of those golds came at the 2024 Paris Games, where she made a thrilling return to the Olympic stage after a long mental health break.

In February of this year she attended the Milan Winter Olympics and consoled US figure skater Ilia Malinin when the hot favorite crashed out of medal contention.

Biles endured a similar disappointment when she arrived as favorite at the Tokyo Games in 2021, having won four golds at the 2016 Rio Games, but withdrew from several events when she suffered a bout of the "twisties" -- a mental block triggered by stress or anxiety. □

Adaptable Towns key in Knicks' run to NBA Finals lead

New York, United States

Karl-Anthony Towns has matched Victor Wembanyama in a battle of big men, a major reason why the New York Knicks are two games from their first NBA title since 1973.

Wembanyama, a 7-foot-4 (2.24m) Frenchman, has averaged 27.5 points, 10.5 rebounds, 2.0 assists, 3.5 blocked shots and 1.5 steals a game for San Antonio.

But the Knicks have a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven championship series thanks to containing "Wemby" and forcing mistakes in key situations.

A major part of that defensive effort has been the work of Towns, who has 19.5 points, 12.5 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 1.0 blocks a game for New York.

"It's great when you get to go against a great player, a player I've spoken about countless times that is going to be a generational player," Towns said. "It's something we've never seen in the NBA before so to be able to go and play in this moment against the best is all you could ask for."

"For us to be in this position right now at 2-0 speaks to our team, the resiliency, grit, what we've been able to do collectively as a group to put ourselves in this position and to be coming home with that kind of success."

A key reason the Knicks have won twice is expecting nothing less than the best from the Spurs.

"Every single game you expect their best. That's how you don't get caught in a way lacking," Towns said. "You expect their best, so you want to bring your best. This is the NBA Finals. There's no time to take any game easy or to take any game lightly."

Together with Knicks scoring leader Jalen Brunson, Towns has adapted his game to do whatever his teammates need to boost their victory chances.

"I've always had to change my role for the betterment of the team," Towns said. "One game Jalen got hurt, that's when I have to be a primary scorer."

"Other games when he's cooking, I got to be a facilitator, a hub, assist maker, aggressive in playmaking. Then there are games when I need to do both."

"There's also days where I got to be a decoy, got to be the best screener, got to be the best spacer for our offense. Whatever it takes to win, especially when you're in the NBA Finals, I'm willing to do."

The Knicks went down 2-1 in the first round against Atlanta and have won 13 games in a row since then, two shy of the longest win streak in NBA playoff history.

"We always talk about the unity and camaraderie of this team. We don't ever want to put ourselves in that position again," Towns said. "So just every single day coming to the game with

that desperation, that will to not put ourselves in a bad spot, I think that's what's led us to this point."

US President Donald Trump will attend game three.

"He will just be there watching the game," New York's OG Anunoby said. "We're just going to go as usual and play our game."

- 'Success' is the word -

The Knicks seek their third NBA crown, and first since 1973, with long-suffering New York supporters in mind.

"(To) see our fans see Finals basketball after all this time is going to be really special," Towns said. "We've got to be desperate for these fans."

"It's up to us to bring it, give 'em something to cheer for, give 'em something to get loud for and give 'em something to believe in."



Karl-Anthony Towns #32 of the New York Knicks reacts during the fourth quarter against the San Antonio Spurs in Game One of the 2026 NBA Finals at Frost Bank Center on June 03, 2026 in San Antonio, Texas.

"Hope has been brought back to the city. We've revitalized that word. But the word 'success' hasn't been

seen in this city for a long time so we have to continue to fight to bring that word back to fruition." □



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Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort; Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



(Palm Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made

with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouth-watering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.



Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com □

